

REMARKS/ARGUMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is hereby submitted to accompany and amend the Application for Patent of International Application No. PCT/EP2003/010015, entering US National Stage under 35 USC §371. Amendments submitted herein are to the English translation of the International Application as filed, and subsequently amended under Article 34. Claims 1 and 14-34 are pending in the application following entry of this Preliminary Amendment. Claims 2-13 are herein canceled.

The following Amendments are submitted herein:

In the specification:

Applicant makes several "form and format" amendments to the specification in order to conform with US practice, regulation, and statute. Customary heading Background of the Invention, and sub-headings Field of the Invention and Description of the Related Art have been added. The Summary of the Invention heading has been added, and minor grammatical and phrasing amendments have been submitted to the first paragraph of the Summary. The second paragraph of the Summary has been amended, and an additional four short paragraphs are herein added to describe each of the independent claims submitted for examination. The headings Brief Description of the Drawings, and Detailed Description of Embodiments of the Invention have been added. The amended specification is essentially the same in content as the originally filed international application, with form and format changes in accordance with US practice, and no new matter is introduced.

In the claims:

The claims, as amended under Article 34 in the International Application, are herein amended to conform to US practice and preference. Claim 1 is herein amended, claims 2-13 are herein canceled, and new claims 14-34 are herein submitted for examination.

Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been introduced, and respectfully requests examination of claims 1 and 14-34 of the present application as amended by this Preliminary Amendment. Claim amendments are submitted amending claims as amended under Article 34 in the International Application, reflected in the Translation of Claims as Annexed to IPER, enclosed herewith. If Examiner has any questions concerning the present Preliminary Amendment, or the application, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6900, ext. 6905. If any additional fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No. WACHP006). A copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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